

DR. BLACKWELDER

1925 - 1933

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One of the most consecrated helpers was Sister Carrie Taylor who began her full time Christian work as the parish visitor and in charge of the Alter Guild on December 7, 1901. On the 25th anniversary of her work she was presented with an inscribed wrist watch and an embossed resolution. She gave of herself for forty years. With deep love and invaluable service she was appreciated by the whole congregation for her beautiful Christian spirit, untiring labor and contagious enthusiasm. Except for Dr. Zimmerman, she made more calls, attended more services and won more souls for Christ than anyone else in the Church. At the age of 82, in 1938, she had to take a three-months rest after falling against the organist's bench. Although she returned to serve, her health gradually failed and on March 10, 1943, at the age of 88, she died of a heart attack. To perpetuate her memory Dr. Zimmerman gave the altar in the Church in her name.

During the years 1921-1929 an additional deaconess, Sister Bertha Schwanenede, served with Sister Carrie. Sister Bertha served with unselfish devotion for eight years until her health failed and she had to return to her home in Bloomfield, New Jersey. She returned to Christ Church once more to speak on Ladies' Night, December 6, 1937, our Golden Jubilee year.

This was the time when young men from the congregation were being inspired to enter the ministry. The first to pursue this course was Arthur C. Waldkoenig who graduated from Gettysburg College in 1920 and the Gettysburg Seminary in 1923. After being ordained in Baltimore, this young pastor started a mission of his own in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

A second son, Carroll S. Klug, after graduating from Gettysburg College in 1925, was looking forward to his theological training that would lead him into the life-long service of God. He received his honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in June 1965 from Gettysburg College.

The work of the Church was not confined to Sunday and Wednesday services alone. A week day Church School was started in 1922 and met every Wednesday afternoon at 4:15 October through May. The school enrolled children from kindergarten through high school and running it entailed going the extra mile for many Sunday School teachers. These training sessions for children, including trips as far as the National Lutheran Home for the Aged in Washington, D.C., continued through 1934.

It was during this time that Dr. Zimmerman announced his retirement and in the spring of 1925 the congregation voted unanimously for a pastor to take the place of their "old Daddy Pastor", who wouldn't leave until his bride - the Church - was attended to. The Rev. Oscar Fisher Blackwelder, was the man to step into these very large shoes. He was a man with pithful enthusiasm that was contagious and an eloquence in the pulpit, who through eight years advanced the church considerably, set up a church staff and organized the work of Christ Church that made it the center of downtown Church life.

Oscar Fisher Blackwelder was born in Newberry, South Carolina on March 6, 1898. He received his ministerial training at Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia; Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina; and Union Theological Seminary, New York City. After serving Virginia Heights Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Virginia, he began his ministry at Christ Church on the first Sunday in September, 1925. By the time he was installed on October 11, 1925, he had already published the first weekly bulletin, a four-page church paper, published September through June. With forethought these gems have been bound so that most of the Church history is right within the covers of the books.



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To strengthen the administrative function of the church an office was opened from 9-5 daily, 9-1 on Saturday and 9-1 daily in July and August. A church secretary, Miss Dora Lingle, started her untiring labors in June 1925. This native of Salisbury, North Carolina, had a deep unselfishness with a love for God, His children and His work. She had untiring energy and a gracious and unaffected manner in dealing with people. Until an illness sent her to the hospital she had not missed a day's work in 20 years. When she died on October 11, 1944, at the age of 47, Dr. Deaton said of her - "Dora had a beautiful spirit and she won the hearts of all she met". She had an important ministry by phone. She had the ability to recognize voices, the talent to project her personality over the phone and great resourcefulness in anticipating the needs of people and preparing to meet them. Her profound insight and discriminating judgment made her an invaluable servant of the Lord.

A director of Young People's Work was appointed in November 1925. Miss Olga Linsenmeyer served happily and enthusiastically for one year, at which time she went home to Bluefield, Virginia to marry a Lutheran pastor. As Mrs. Castor she returned to the Church during the Golden Jubilee celebration in 1937 to speak to the Luther League.

In the fall of 1926, Hugh J. Rhyne came as a replacement for Mrs. Castor as Director of Young People's Work and in January, 1927, with ordination pending, he was advanced to the position of Assistant Pastor. During the three years our first Assistant Pastor was with us he conducted the Children's Church in the Lecture Room, having a very successful attendance of up to 485 in 1928.

The Luther League was started in 1925 as a training ground for leaders, began with an attendance of 507 and then reached close to 600, making it the largest Young People's Society in the United Lutheran Church. With a president, four vice-presidents, 2 secretaries, a treasurer, pianist and chairman for committees for programs, social, life service, finance, mission and membership, many activities were going on beside the Sunday evening meeting.

Study classes were held on Sunday afternoons in the Fall of each year with a 5:30 tea following. A dramatic club was organized, which presented yearly plays with a silver offering taken. Annual banquets at the YWCA were held each Spring. Open air meetings for the closing of Luther League for the summer were held in Federal Hill Park. Yearly conventions to as far away as Omaha, Nebraska in 1929 had ten of our leaguers in attendance.

In the Spring of 1928 an Intermediate Luther League for boys and girls between the ages of 11-16 was formed. October 1933 a Junior League had an attendance of forty 9-12 year olds. The next year, each Sunday evening at 7:00 P.M. a place was reserved for leaguers of all ages, starting with the Juniors, to the Intermediate, Young People (ages 16-21) and Seniors, anyone over 21.

There were additional classes added to the Sunday School beginning in 1925. Also, the Primary, Junior and Senior Departments were created and in 1928 the Business and Professional Women's Class started meeting in the south balcony of the Church. Realizing the needs of mothers with infants and the shut-ins, the Home Department was started in 1929 and a year later the Cradle Roll Department with 35 workers visited over 325 children under 3 years old in beginning its work. An additional house, 17 East Hill Street, next to the Church office was rented and later another one was purchased at 19 East Hill Street to accommodate the Bible School of over 1000. Assemblies were held every fifth week. The teachers continued their monthly business meetings with a special teachers' class held on Wednesday evening at 7:30 P.M., taught by Dr. Gift, a good friend of Christ Church. The Sunday School presented an annual entertainment to help defray the expenses of the Sunday School picnic. Just as Dr. Zimmerman recognized the importance of Sunday School so Dr. Blackwelder said of it in 1931: "It is the first step of a child's spiritual vision under the guidance of self-sacrificing teachers who devote their time and talent".

(4) (Dr. Blackwelder)

Church services in 1925 included the regular 11:00 A.M. worship for over 1100 adults, as well as a story service for 300 juniors, intermediates and teens. To instill a feeling of unity the last hymn, doxology and benediction were amplified so that all worshipping, including the children, could join in together. The 8:00 P.M. services had a regular attendance of around 800, while the Wednesday night attendance was slightly lower. To add more interest to these services Pastor Blackwelder in 1929 held a Spring Forum in which he answered questions from a question box placed outside the Church door.

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Christmas continued to be celebrated with the 6:00 A.M. service and a pageant on the Sunday evening after Christmas. A special Watch-Night Service beginning at 11:00 P.M. was held on December 31, 1925 and again in 1931. The practice was revived in 1935 by the Luther League. Holy Week was busy Monday through Thursday at 8:00 P.M. On Monday a special program was planned, confirmation was held on Tuesday night, the Preparatory Service was on Wednesday of Holy Week, with Communion on Holy Thursday. The Good Friday service was from 12:00-3:00 and was preached by one, and sometimes seven preachers - each taking a word. With baptismal services held every Sunday following the 11:00 A.M. worship, making from 1-3 people Christians, there were children flocking to Sunday school. In 1927 Dr. Blackwelder found a need for Vacation Bible School. At this first one held at Christ Church over 200 pupils (mostly all members) with 14 teachers attended.

To help in the efficiency of the work of this great congregation scattered all around, the Church bought a car; a Dodge sedan, soon after Dr. Blackwelder began his ministry here. It was placed in the care of the Church sexton, who became a chauffeur to take the pastor around on some of his visits. During 1928-29 the

the busy pastor had to be taken to the radio station where he broadcast over WCAO the YMCA Radio Pulpit at 5:00 every Sunday evening in 1928 and 1929 and in 1931 The Lighted Window on Thursday evening 6:15 to 6:30.

The Ladies' Society continued to be as active, if not more so, than it had been. In 1926 Circles were organized meeting in the homes of the ladies each month, along with the monthly joint meetings held at Church. The goal of these meetings was to reach a membership of 1000.

On April 4, 1927, with 600 present at its monthly meeting, action was taken to give the Church \$5,000 to purchase 19 East Hill Street for the Sunday School; to discontinue July and August meetings and to establish a missionary committee.

One way these ladies made money was through The Ladies' Exchange, which was open on Wednesday before and after the service, where Christmas cards and calendars were sold. A rummage sale was held for two days one fall. On October 24-25, 1929 an oyster supper and bazaar was held at Knights of Pythias Hall, Charles and Preston Streets, price of tickets 75¢.

Another service the ladies held each year was the Tolchester outing down the Bay. In 1926, on a rainy Thursday with the boat leaving the Baltimore pier at 8:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M., and once more at 6:45 P.M., 2,682 people attended with the ladies clearing \$721.50.

Of course, the Sunday School had a picnic each year also. In the late 20s it was held at Carline, with as many as 1,043 of the Church pupils attending in one year. For the price of 25¢ per child and 50¢ per adult for non-members many friends and acquaintances also attended. There were always games, relays, races and contests. At 3:00 P.M., there was a baseball game and a penny scramble for children only. If you did not bring your lunch there was a barbecue picnic lunch available for 25¢. In 1931 the picnic was again held at Druid Hill Park, where it had been held during Dr. Zimmerman's Ministry at Grove 10 and Council Grove.

To give the people recreational, as well as religious reading material, a Church library was formed during these Blackwelder years. There were eight librarians - all men, who carefully supervised the loaning of many periodicals and over 1000 books. In 1927 a reading room was opened on Wednesday evening 7:00-8:00 P.M. and 9:00-10:00 A.M. on Sunday morning for reading and reference work. In 1935 the library located in the front room of 17 East Hill Street, became a station of the Enoch-Pratt Library of Baltimore City.

In addition to the Men's Bowling League, which was started during Dr. Zimmerman's ministry, a league for ladies was organized in 1927 at the Regent Bowling Alley on Eutaw Street with four teams, five members on a team, bowling from September to May every year. A male soccer team was also organized, the first game was on Saturday, October 22, 1927, 3:00 P.M. at Patterson Park against Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The team was very successful that year.

In 1929 baseball was scheduled on Saturdays, 3:00 P.M. at Swan Park. A tennis tournament was mentioned in July of 1929, but there was no followup to it. Soccer was again played in 1929.

A new Boy Scout Troop was organized in our Church September 11, 1927. The troop under the direction of Pastor Rhyme met in the Parish House and is now in its 45th year of activity. An announcement of a Girl Scout Troop was made on January 8, 1928, but apparently it did not last because in 1931, a Girl Reserve was organized to meet on Friday evenings for two years.

With the Church surging forward Pastor Blackwelder announced in the Fall of 1928 the starting of a new Church campaign. Men of the congregation called on the members to make a survey and on September 16, 1928 pledges were made to raise \$300,000 in a 5-year period. Why a new church? Here are listed some of the complaints: poor ventilation, poor toilet facilities, poor fire protection, pews too close, no good seats past a reasonable hour so people do not come, and expensive to keep church in repair. The big problem in 1928 was where to locate.

In the midst of all this activity in October 1929, Pastor Rhyme left Christ Church to become the pastor of a Lutheran Church in Marion, Virginia and later a teacher and president of Marion Junior College. He returned once to Baltimore for the Golden Jubilee just four years before his death at the age of 41, November 1942.

Miss Mary E. Propst, a former student at the Baltimore Motherhouse and parish worker at two other churches before coming to Christ Church in February, 1930 took over the responsibilities of Sister Bertha in Children's Church and Luther League. After serving $3\frac{1}{2}$ years she left to return only once for the 50th anniversary service in Luther League, Sunday, December 12, 1937.

After his ordination by the Pittsburgh Synod, Roy L. Sloop, came as our assistant pastor on May 15, 1930. Both he and his wife labored most diligently and with auspicious success for seven years. Pastor Sloop made important contributions to the progress of the Church and had the esteem and affection of all. He resigned in August 1937 to be installed as Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, Maryland.

In these years when the United Railways sent a special #2 streetcar to Charles and Hill Streets on Sunday at 12:15 to accommodate the crowds leaving Christ Church, when the council employed an Automobile Club Official to take full charge of parking arrangements for cars on Hill Street between Charles and Light Streets; when there was even talk of a merger between Zion Lutheran Church at Holliday and Lexington Streets and Christ Church, the occasion of the 40th anniversary in 1927 prompted Dr. Zimmerman to write a paean to Christ Lutheran Church called "Looking Back". He asked the question "Has it paid to organize this Church in addition to the many churches already in existence at the time it was started", This Church with a staff of Pastor, Pastor Emeritus, Assistant Pastor, two deaconesses, a new organ, 37 councilmen, a Luther League of over 500, Sunday School from Cradle Roll to the Home Department with over 1000 members, a choir with 20 voices, a Ladies' Society with an active membership of over 600. He wrote how

lives all over America had been touch with untold help! How Baltimore City recognized this as a church downtown, doing work all around; how the Lutheran Church at large benefited with money from this Church; how the members of Christ Church made happy homes through their contacts in Church; how the Pastor Emeritus gave of his best years and was rewarded with congratulations, even by the President of the United States; how the present pastor had the cooperation, loyalty and devotion of the congregation; and how the Redeemer in Heaven looked down upon the long list of faithful, worshipping and baptized children. Pastor Zimmerman ended his paean with these words: "As we think of its wonderful past history, its present work and its future glorious possibilities, as we thus think of the joy of service and the blessing of such dedicated service, we ask "Has it paid?" and we believe you will say "Yes, it has paid"!

Work copy

W B Lockwood

1925-1933

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This was the time when young men from the congregation were being inspired to enter the ministry. The first to pursue ^{this course} was Arthur C. Waldkoenig who graduated ^{from Gettysburg College in 1920 and the Gettysburg Seminary} ~~from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago and Western Theological Seminary~~ in 1923. After being ordained in Baltimore, this young pastor started a mission of his own in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A second son, Carroll S. Klug, after graduating from Gettysburg College in 1925, was looking forward to his theological training that would lead him into the life long service of God. He received his honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, June 1965, from Gettysburg College.

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~~To increase the organization~~ of the Church an office was opened from 9-5 daily, 9-1 on Saturday and 9-1 daily in July and August. A church secretary, Miss Dora Lingle, started her untiring labors in June 1925. This native of Salisbury, North Carolina, had a deep unselfishness with a love for God, His children and His work. She had untiring energy, ^{and} a gracious and unaffected manner in dealing with people. Until an illness sent her to the hospital she had not missed a days work in 20 years. When she died October 11, 1944, at age 47, Dr. Deaton said of her - "Dora had a beautiful spirit and she won the hearts of all she met". She had an important ministry by phone. She had the ability to recognize voices, the talent to project her personality over the phone and great resourcefulness in anticipating the needs of people and preparing to meet them. Her profound insight and discriminating judgment made her an invaluable servant of the Lord.

A director of Young Peoples Work was appointed in November 1925. Miss Olga Linsenmeyer served happily and enthusiastically ^{only} for one year at which time she went home to Bluefield, Virginia to marry a Lutheran Pastor. ^{as} ~~The~~ then Mrs. Castor ^{she} returned to the Church during the Golden Jubilee celebration ^{in 1937} to speak to the Luther League.

In the fall of 1926 ~~The Rev.~~ Hugh J. Rhyne came as a replacement for Mrs. Castor as Director of Young People's work and in January 1927 ^{with ordination pending} he was advanced to the position of Assistant Pastor. During the three years our first Assistant Pastor was with us he conducted the Children's Church in the Lecture Room, having a very successful attendance of up to 485 in 1928.

The Luther League, which ⁱⁿ started ⁱⁿ 1925 as a training ground for leaders, began with an attendance of 507 and then reached close to 600, making it the largest Young People's Society in the United Lutheran Church. With a president, four vice-presidents, 2 secretaries, a treasurer, pianist and chairman for committees for programs, social, life service, finance, mission and membership, many activities were going on beside the Sunday evening meeting.

10-11-1957

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 with people. While an illness kept her to the hospital she had not missed a day's
 work in 20 years. When she died October 11, 1957, at age 47, Dr. Boston said
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 Thompson served happily and enthusiastically for one year at which time she
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 pastor's second wife during the Golden Jubilee celebration to speak
 to the Father's house.

In the fall of 1958 Pastor, Mrs. J. Hynes came as a replacement for Mrs.
 Gorton as director of Young People's work and in January 1959 he was advanced
 to the position of Assistant Pastor. During the three years our first Assistant
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With baptismal services held every Sunday following the 11:00 A.M. worship making from 1-8 people Christians, there were children flocking to Sunday School. In 1927 Dr. Blackwelder found a need for Vacation Bible School. At this first one held at Christ Church over 200 pupils (mostly all members) with 14 teachers attended.

To help in the efficiency of the work of this great congregation scattered all around, the Church bought a car; a Dodge Sedan, soon after Dr. Blackwelder began his ministry here. It was placed in the care of the Church sexton, who became a chauffeur to take the pastor around on some of his visits. During

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Of course, the Sunday School had a picnic each year also. In the late 20's it was held at Carlins, with as many as 1,043 of the Church pupils attending in one year; For the price of 25¢ per child and 50¢ ^{per} ^{for non-members} /adult, many friends and acquaintances also attended. There were always games, relays, races and contests. At 3:00 P.M. there was a baseball game and a penny scramble for children only. If you did not bring your lunch there was a barbecue picnic lunch available for 25¢. In 1931 the picnic was again held at Druid Hill Park, where it had been held during Dr. Zimmerman's ministry - Grove 10 and Council Grove.

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A new Boy Scout Troop #60 was organized in our Church September 11, 1927. The troop under the direction of Pastor Rhyne met in the Parish House, and is now in its 45th year of activity. An announcement of a Girl Scout Troop was made on Jan. 8, 1928, but apparently it did not last because in 1931 a Girl Reserve was organized to meet on Friday evenings for two years.

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In the midst of all this activity in October 1929, Pastor Rhyme left Christ Church to become the pastor of a Lutheran Church in Marion, Virginia, and later a teacher and president of Marion Junior College. He returned once to Baltimore for the Golden Jubilee just four years before his death at the age of 41, November, 1942.

Miss Mary E. Propst, a former student at the Baltimore Motherhouse and parish worker at two other churches before coming to Christ Church in February, 1930 took over the responsibilities of Sister Bertha in Children's Church and Luther League. After serving for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years she left to return only once for the 50th anniversary service in Luther League Sunday December 12, 1937.

After his ordination by the Pittsburgh Synod, Roy L. Sloop, came as our assistant pastor on May 15, 1930. Both he and his wife labored most diligently and with auspicious success for seven years. Pastor Sloop made important contributions to the progress of the church and had the esteem and affection of all. He resigned in August 1937 to be installed as pastor of St. Marks Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, Md.

In these years when the United Railways sent a special #2 streetcar to Charles & Hill Streets on Sunday at 12:15 to accommodate the crowds leaving Christ Church, when the council employed an Automobile Club Official to take full charge of parking arrangements for cars on Hill Street between Charles and Light Streets; when there was even talk of a merger between Zion Lutheran Church at Holliday and Lexington Streets and Christ Church, the occasion of the 40th Anniversary in 1927 ^{prompted Dr. Zimmerman} to write a paean to Christ Lutheran Church called "Looking Back". He asked the question "Has it paid to organize this Church in addition to the many churches already in existence at the time it was started"? This Church with a staff of Pastor, Pastor Emeritus, Assistant Pastor, two deaconesses, a new organ, 37 councilmen, a Luther League of over 500, Sunday School from Cradle Roll to the Home Department with over 1000 members, a choir with 20 voices, a Ladies Society with an active membership of over 600. He wrote how

lives all over America had been touched with untold help! How Baltimore City recognized this as a church downtown, doing work all around; how the Lutheran Church at large was benefitted with money from this Church; how the members of Christ Church made happy homes through their contacts in Church; how the Pastor Emeritus gave of his best years and was rewarded with congratulations, even by the President of the United States; how the present pastor had the co-operation, loyalty and devotion of the congregation; and how the Redeemer in Heaven looked down upon the long list of faithful, worshipping and baptized children. Pastor Zimmerman ended his paean with these words: "As we think of its wonderful past history, its present great work and its future glorious possibilities, as we thus think of the joy of service and the blessing of such dedicated service, we ask "Has it paid?" and we believe you will all say "Yes, it has paid"!

